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Press Statement – 26 October 2016

Bermuda's mobile phone coverage and services set to be transformed The Regulatory Authority makes key awards of 4G spectrum

The Regulatory Authority is pleased to announce that it has awarded radio spectrum to enable a rapid and comprehensive roll out of 4G superfast mobile broadband network and services across the island. The contest for the award of spectrum is a first of its kind in Bermuda.

After an intensive assessment of applications made to the Authority for 4G spectrum, the following awards of spectrum have been made along with the various obligations listed below:

- CellOne has been awarded the Lower B & C Blocks of the 700 MHz Band
- Digicel has been awarded the Upper C Blocks of the 700 MHz Band as well as the B & B' Blocks of the 850 MHz Band

As a condition to the award of the spectrum to both CellOne and Digicel, the Authority has mandated the following island wide coverage obligations on both operators from next month:

- 75% mobile 4G service coverage within 6 months for CellOne.
- 50% mobile 4G service coverage within 9 months for Digicel.
- 99.9% mobile 4G service coverage within 12 months for CellOne.
- 99.9% mobile 4G service coverage within 18 months for Digicel.
- An accelerated roll out of 4G superfast mobile service coverage by both CellOne and Digicel for the western area of the island, specifically the land area around the Great Sound and the sea area of the Great Sound itself, where the America's Cup race will take place in June 2017.

With regard to all of the above coverage obligations, they are accompanied by obligations to provide superfast speeds, including when indoors. If either, or both, CellOne and Digicel fail to meet any of the above obligations they will incur significant financial penalties.

In addition, a net neutrality obligation has also been placed on both CellOne and Digicel that will promote access to new and innovative internet based information, content, applications and services.

The Authority believes that all the above deliverables will transform the mobile services available in Bermuda. The Chief Executive of the Authority, Matthew Copeland, commented;

'The award of this 4G spectrum is vital to ensuring that Bermuda's mobile services catch up with other countries. Bermuda has been behind other countries far too long when it comes to the availability of high speed mobile broadband services. We recognize that the residents and businesses of Bermuda have hoped for and expected a full 4G service provision for a long while.

We also recognize that the residents and businesses of Bermuda want a significant improvement in the quality and coverage of the mobile phone services available in Bermuda.

The spectrum that has been awarded today has significant advantages with regard to outdoor and indoor mobile service coverage. In this context, the coverage obligations that we have imposed on CellOne and Digicel, as part of their rollout of 4G network and services, will deliver far better coverage, at greater speeds, across all of Bermuda.

With regards to the America's Cup area coverage, the Authority is pleased that CellOne and Digicel are delivering this accelerated coverage of 4G services for the Great Sound area. This event will be very important for the Bermuda economy and a key showcase for the country. The Authority views mobile 4G service delivery as essential for this event, hence the related obligations.

Finally, the Authority is aware that in other countries various mobile networks have restricted access and usage of internet-based services. The net neutrality obligation imposed by the Authority will help ensure that the possibility of this occurring in Bermuda does not arise.'

Awarded Spectrum

Bermuda Digital Communications (CellOne)

L-1	Lower Band B Lower Band C	704-710 / 734-740 MHz 710-716 / 740-746 MHz	2 x 12 MHz
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Telecommunications (Bermuda & West Indies) Ltd. (Digicel)

L-2	Upper Band C	746-757 / 776-787 MHz	2 x 11 MHz
L-3	B	880.0-890.0 / 835.0-845.0 MHz	2 x 10 MHz
	B'	891.5-894.0 / 846.5-849.0 MHz	2 x 2.5 MHz

The Decision can be found on the Authority's website at www.rab.bm. For more information, please contact the Authority on 474-6030, after hours at 536-6030 or email at info@rab.bm.